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Faith Bible Church <http://www.fbcweb.org/index.html>
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JEWISH APOLOGETICS (117)
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-117.pdf>

Objection #100: The only prophecy about Jesus in the Hebrew Scriptures is found in Zechariah 13:1-6—a passage dealing with false prophets. It even makes explicit reference to his crucifixion!

Brown's short response to this objection:

Actually, the passage of which you speak has nothing whatsoever to do with Jesus. To be sure, you are right in saying it is a prophecy about false prophets, but it makes no reference to crucifixion—the Hebrew actually speaks of wounds on the false prophet's back, not on his hands. The only references to the Messiah in this passage of Scripture are in the powerful, God-centered, repentance-based passages that come before and after Zechariah 13:1-6. So, you have failed to recognize the true references to the Messiah in Zechariah 12-14 and have focused on the one passage that does not apply to him.¹

After Brown shows that Zechariah 13:1-6 has nothing to do with the Messiah, he writes,

What makes this wrong interpretation all the more tragic is the fact that there are several very important Messianic passages surrounding Zechariah 13:1-6, which apply clearly and powerfully to Jesus, but these passages have been totally missed by the anti-missionaries. I speak of Zechariah 12:10-14, referring to Israel's repentance when they look at the pierced Messiah; 13:7-9, speaking of the betrayal and smiting of the shepherd Messiah, causing the flock to be scattered; chapter 14 in its entirety, with specific reference to the Messiah's return (Zech. 14:4 says that his feet will touch the Mount of Olives when he comes to fight for his people) and all nations coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

I encourage you not to be misinformed about the meaning of Zechariah 13:1-6—a passage that promises the exposure and eradications of false prophets in the land and that cannot be possibly applied to Yeshua in any way—and not to overlook the other glorious prophecies in Zechariah 12-14 pointing to the suffering, death, and return of the Messiah, so clearly referring to Jesus.²

¹Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections—Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 179-81. In his book, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response which is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in this series).

²Ibid., 181.

There were false prophets then and there are false prophets today. The only way one can detect false prophets is through Bible doctrine and critical thinking skills. People commonly think of false prophets as cultists like David Koresh. These false prophets are easy to detect. But what about those prophets who come with a message of “hope and peace?” E.g. “And they have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14). What about the Joel Osteen preachers of positive attitudes? What about the false preachers of the prosperity movement? How could a believer discern, detect, and expose the false teaching apart from Bible doctrine that is undergirded by a robust set of critical thinking skills (as per our logic classes)? The messages of false prophets sound so good. They even talk about God and Jesus Christ and the Bible as the Word of God. How could they be so wrong? How is it that the Bible that Mardel recommends is the Dake Study Bible, which teaches that God has a body, hair, lips, and a face and lives on a planet called heaven (which he left to visit Abraham)? This study Bible is replete with proof passages of God in such human terms. How could anyone detect and refute such gross characteristics apart from a set of logical critical skills that undergird one’s understanding of the Bible and the nature of God? One might say, “I will just check to see if a good solid pastor would recommend this study Bible.” There is one problem, however, for on the back of the Dake Study Bible there is the recommendation from Dr. Criswell, a well-known and doctrinally sound pastor. The problem is that I am convinced he does not know that such views of God are in this “Bible.” Apparently, *he never read it!*

Each believer needs to have the capacity to thinking logically and critically as well as understand and develop Bible doctrine and the spiritual life. This is my mission at Faith Bible church—to equip believers to be solid thinking scholars, apologists, and theologians who really understand and live out the wonderful spiritual life. There are very few such rare believers.

Everything I do in teaching at FBC is toward that aim. I want this so much for believers of our little church. It really is not about my stupid "jokes" (there are other reasons for them).

Advancing in the Logos,

Pastor Don